

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 03516 050943Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 /036 W
-----073988 051029Z /20

R 050935Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7657
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 03516

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, EINV, TW
SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION WITH APCAC

REF: STATE 112598

1. DEPARTMENT MAY BE INTERESTED IN REACTION OF TAIPEI
AMCHAM TO IDEAS CONTAINED REFTL. THESE IDEAS WERE
COMMUNICATED TO AMCHAM IN LETTER FROM ECON COUNSELOR
MAY 8; REPLY WAS RECEIVED FROM AMCHAM MAY 27.

2. SUBSTANCE OF AMCHAM LETTER FOLLOWS:

"YESTERDAY AT OUR CHAMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING
WE DISCUSSED THE ISSUES RAISED IN YOUR LETTER DATED MAY 8.
THE GOAL OF EVEN FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN COMMUNICATING AND
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 03516 050943Z

COOPERATING WITH THE EMBASSY WAS UNANIMOUSLY REAFFIRMED.
OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR UNGER, YOURSELF, AND
OTHERS FROM THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL STAFF ARE MUCH APPRE-
CIATED AND FROM OUR STANDPOINT EXTREMELY VALUABLE. WE
MIGHT TRY TO IMPROVE THESE, BUT ON THE WHOLE WE ARE
SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT FORMAT. WE WELCOME MEETING
WITH U.S. TRADE MISSIONS, VISITING U.S. BUSINESSMEN AND

WILL CONTINUE TO COORDINATE CLOSELY ON THESE WITH YOUR STAFF. ALSO MOST OF OUR MEMBERS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE TRADE CENTER IN TAIPEI IS EFFECTIVE AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO VOICE OUR SUPPORT FOR IT WHEN THE OCCASIONS ARISE.

THE BUREAU'S (EA) SUGGESTION OF INITIATING A 'JOINT STUDY PROGRAM' IS POSSIBLY A STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION TOWARDS STRENGTHENING THE TIES BETWEEN OUR AMCHAM'S AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THERE MAY BE SOME PROJECTS THAT COULD GENERATE SUFFICIENT INTEREST TO INDUCE OUR BUSINESSMEN MEMBERS TO DONATE MORE OF THEIR TIME AND EFFORT. WE SEE ONLY A MINUSCULE CHANCE OF OUR CHAMBER JOINING WITH THE EMBASSY IN FINANCING OUTSIDE CONTRACTUAL RESEARCH. SEVERAL MEMBERS EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE TYPE OF DATA THEY MIGHT BE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE TO ANY JOINT STUDIES. THEIR COMPANIES HAVE TAKEN RISKS, MADE INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPED MARKETS HERE. THEY ARE UNDERSTANDABLY LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC WHEN SURVEYED FOR FREE INTELLIGENCE OF USE TO COMPETITORS.

IN SUMMARY, OUR AMCHAM VERY MUCH WANTS TO MAKE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR EMBASSY MORE EFFECTIVE. WE ARE RECEPTIVE TO LISTENING TO ANY SPECIFIC IDEAS THAT YOU THINK MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE PROJECTS FOR US TO JOINTLY UNDERTAKE. WE ARE, HOWEVER, APPREHENSIVE ABOUT COMMITTING ON A GENERAL BASIS TO THE KIND OF TOPIC PER QUARTER PROGRAM

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PAGE 03 TAIPEI 03516 050943Z

SUGGESTED. IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR NEXT TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BREAKFAST MEETING NOW SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 22 SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO DIALOG THIS JOINT STUDY TOPIC. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED IF ANYTHING PERTINENT IS RECEIVED THROUGH OUR APCAC CHANNEL."

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING REACTIONS RECEIVED BY OTHER POSTS FROM LOCAL AMCHAM TO REFTEL. UNGER

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